

## Welcome to FFWPU Korea, Invaluable New Members

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*The church in Jungbu, Gyeonggi Province, welcomes new members*

As a component of the third anniversary of Foundation Day, events took place, March 5–6, to welcome members to our church that had joined throughout 2015. Accompanied by spiritual parents, new members from four quadrants of Korea attended four separate events, held simultaneously. Those from the capital city, Seoul, met at either of two buildings within the Chung Pyung International Training Center. Those from Gyeonggi Province, a largely rural area, held their event at the Cheongshim International Training Center. Those from the Honam area, comprising South Jeolla Province, North Jeolla Province and the city of Kwangju, met at the Mt. Gaya Tourist Hotel, while those from the Yeongnam area, comprising North Gyeongsan Province, South Gyeongsan Province and the cities of Busan, Daegu and Ulsan, met at Yeosu's Blue Sea Garden Training Center.

Around two hundred people came from the Seoul area, from all of their five church districts -- north, south, east, west and the headquarters church. Nationwide, the events began at 10:30 AM. Seoul's event opened with a speech by the vice-president of the Korean church, Lee Hyeon-yeong, in which he said, "Please remember how precious a blessing it is to know Heaven's great will and to attend True Parents when the world is still unaware of their value."



*New members at Blue Sea Garden in Yeosu*

A personal testimony followed, by an actor, Shin Yang-hong. One middle aged member, Mrs. Kim, explained, "I accompanied my three guests, the wives of married couples that had received the blessing last year. All three are over seventy. Mr. Shin testified that he knew Rev. Moon through his biography. I appreciated what he said and I think the whole audience did." Mr. Shin spoke in a booming voice, and made some strong statements, such as "Even though I am speaking to you from this platform, my words do not feel like mine at all. It strongly feels as though True Father has come down from the spiritual world and is conveying his words through my lips."

They then watched a documentary, "Sun Myung Moon: A Life Dedicated to Peace and Unification," produced by Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation, a long established

secular broadcast company. Mrs. Kim thought it was even instructive for her to see how a media outlook saw value in our projects and activities. "One of my guests said that she learned from the documentary and respected that Rev. Moon had worked hard to unite North Korea and South Korea," Mrs. Kim explained.

Following the documentary, the group was asked to go through stacks of magazines to find a photograph that represented their personal dream. Mrs. Kim observed, "Many people said they wished for their grandchild to find a good husband or wife." The Unification Church is certainly a good place to pursue

that dream.

A talent show was the next major event that day. It followed dinner. Mrs. Kim and her guests found all the meals very tasty. Another good point: they stayed in a recently built building in Chung Pyung, which has very comfortable sleeping quarters. The talent show's extremely funny master of ceremonies raised the groups enjoyment level considerably. "He caused everyone to laugh and the whole group began to feel closer to one another," Mrs. Kim said.

What the new members seemed to find profoundly enjoyable and what is likely to leave a good lasting impression on them was the Chung Pyung clapping session that they all took part in on the second day. "They clapped very hard and invested themselves energetically," Mrs. Kim said, adding, "Seeing many foreign members, families with children, who had come to Chung Pyung impressed them. After the clapping session, they agreed that their bodies felt lighter."

### **Around the nation**



*Korean Church President Kyeong-seuk Lu presents the Cheon Il Guk national flower to new members*

The official name of the event was "The 2016 Welcoming Festival for New Members: Being reborn in True Parents' endless true love and heart!" One strong impression that new members expressed was admiration for our grand facilities, especially those at Chung Pyung and Yeosu's Blue Sea Garden Training Center.

Korean Church President Lu spoke at the event in Gyeonggi Province. Major cities in Korea have special status. Thus, both Seoul and Incheon are independent administrative areas surrounded by Gyeonggi Province, which has a population that exceeds twelve million inhabitants. Rev. Lu told the new members there, "Heavenly Parent's infinite love and grace is with you as you begin your new lives as members of the Family Federation. Let us become children that complete our duties as devoted and loyal children to True Parents, who opened the way of true love for us."

Honam and Yeongnam come up in explanations about regionalism in Korea, because of their opposing political and social views, and their competitive, even antagonistic relationship. Fortunately, all can find harmony in the sunshine of True Parents' love and grace. The Honam event took place at Blue Sea Garden. Rev. Shin In-seon told the assembled guest, "True Parents offered deep devotion here.... You new members were able to come on the foundation of devotion offered by your spiritual parents. I hope that you can regard as precious this heart-to-heart connection and completely settle in as members."

At the Yeongnam event, new members arose to attend 6:00 AM Hoon Dok Hae on the second day, reading from Earthly Life and the Spirit World in Cheon Seong Gyeong. It was a chance to reflect on the significance of life and our ultimate spiritual destination.

Overall, Mrs. Kim had the impression that a gap exists between the headquarters' expectation of new members deeply educated in Divine Principle, tithing and attending Sunday service and the actual members that attended her event, but clearly momentum is building and we are becoming an organization with increasing power to attract good people from society.